



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,329	02/16/2001	David L. Anson	50037.16US01	6113

27488 7590 05/03/2006

MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

NASH, LASHANYA RENEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2153

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/788,329	ANSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LaShanya R. Nash	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to an Amendment filed 31 January 2006. Claims 1-20 are presented for further consideration.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks/Arguments (pages 9-10), filed 31 January 2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejections have been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection are made in view of a newly found prior art reference Salin (US Patent 5,628,051) as set forth below in the Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meuronen et al. (US Patent 6,292,669), and further in view of Salin (US Patent 5,628,051) and Gehr et al. (US Patent 5,828,847), hereinafter referred to as Meuronen, Salin, and Gehr respectively.

In reference to claim 1, Meuronen discloses a method and system for routing Short Messaging Service (SMS) messages based on the particular SMS service (i.e. application) required for receiving SMS messages of a designated format (column 2, lines 4-23). Meuronen further discloses that SMS messages are routed to a specific SMS service via the short message service center (SMSC) servers (i.e. providers) that are associated with the aforementioned services (column 5, lines 29-38 and column 7, lines 20-25). Meuronen discloses:

- A computer-implemented SMS routing method, (abstract, column 2 lines 4-28) comprising:
- Providing a plurality of providers (Figure 3-items SMSC1; SMSC2; SMSC3; SMSC4; column 5, lines 10-40), wherein each provider is associated with a message type (i.e. PID; column 5, lines 5-25), (e.g. SMSC3 associated with telefax message type; column 5; column 1, lines 45-51);
- Receiving a message, (column 7, lines 34-38 and Figure 6);
- Routing the message to the plurality of providers until at least one provider recognizes the message type associated with the message, (i.e. message is routed to a short message service center and routed further to the short message service center associated with desired service; column 7, lines 7-20; Figure 5); and
- Associating the message with at least one of the plurality of providers when at least one of the plurality of providers recognizes the message type, (column 7, lines 38-44).

Art Unit: 2153

However, Meuronen does not disclose informing an application associated with the provider that the message is waiting without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting. Nonetheless, this modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Salin.

In an analogous art, Salin discloses a method that involves a server informing an application (i.e. mobile station of SMS subscriber; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-MS) associated with the provider (i.e. subscriber of respective short message centers; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-BSC) that messages are waiting (i.e. messages waiting to be transmitted to the subscriber/MWD list; column 10, lines 35-44) without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting (i.e. home location register HLR sends an alert to all short message service centers associated with subscribers that have messages in the MWD list; column 9, lines 45-58). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been so motivated to implement this modification in the SMS routing methodology as disclosed by Meuronen, so as to increase the SMS routing functionality to store messages for later transmission in case the receiving party is not reached (Meuronen column 4, lines 31-35). However, the references do not teach prioritized SMSC servers (i.e. providers); and the provider with the highest priority receives the message first; and routing the message to the provider with second highest priority when the first highest priority rejects the message. Nonetheless, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages to these modifications, as evidenced by Gehr.

In analogous art, Gehr teaches prioritizing a set of communication servers based on a priority level in a hierarchical list for routing client request to alternate prioritized servers (i.e. providers) (column 5, lines 20-31 and column 2, lines 56-65). Gehr further discloses that the message routing process is self-directed to request servers according to the hierarchy of successive alternate servers until the request is processed to completion and the provider with the highest priority receives the message first; and routing the message to the provider with second highest priority when the first highest priority rejects the message (column 7, lines 32-39 and Figure 5B). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the SMS message routing methodology in order for certain SMS services that are though to have higher volume of use to have a higher priority in the logical routing process.

In reference to claim 20, Meuronen discloses a method and system for routing Short Messaging Service (SMS) messages based on the particular SMS service (i.e. application) required for receiving SMS messages of a designated format (column 2, lines 4-23). Meuronen further discloses that SMS messages are routed to a specific SMS service via the short message service center (SMSC) servers (i.e. providers) that are associated with the aforementioned services (column 5, lines 29-38 and column 7, lines 20-25). Meuronen discloses:

- A computer-implemented method for routing messages for a device (abstract, column 2 lines 4-28) comprising:

Art Unit: 2153

- Providing a plurality of providers (Figure 3-items SMSC1; SMSC2; SMSC3; SMSC4; column 5, lines 10-40), wherein each provider is associated with a message type and at least one application, (e.g. SMSC3 associated with telefax; column 5; column 1, lines 45-51);
- Receiving at least one message, (column 7, lines 34-38 and Figure 6) including a provider character sequence (i.e. PID parameter; column 5, lines 5-25);
- Routing the message to the plurality of providers until at least one provider recognizes the message type associated with the message, (i.e. message is routed to a short message service center and routed further to the short message service center associated with desired service; column 7, lines 7-20; Figure 5); and
- Associating the request with the recognized provider (column 7, lines 38-44);
- Formatting the message for the application (i.e. define/give format for message and route corresponding to format; column 7, lines 25-40; Figure 6-items 25-50); and
- Delivering the formatted message to the application (i.e. short message submit command/deliver send to destination address; column 7, lines 40-47; Figure 6-items 40&70).

However, Meuronen does not disclose informing an application associated with the provider that the message is waiting without the application sending a query

Art Unit: 2153

to receive an indication that the message is waiting. Nonetheless, this modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Salin.

In an analogous art, Salin discloses a method that involves a server informing an application (i.e. mobile station of SMS subscriber; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-MS) associated with the provider (i.e. subscriber of respective short message centers; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-BSC) that messages are waiting (i.e. messages waiting to be transmitted to the subscriber/MWD list; column 10, lines 35-44) without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting (i.e. home location register HLR sends an alert to all short message service centers associated with subscribers that have messages in the MWD list; column 9, lines 45-58). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been so motivated to implement this modification in the SMS routing methodology as disclosed by Meuronen, so as to increase the SMS routing functionality to store messages for later transmission in case the receiving party is not reached (Meuronen column 4, lines 31-35). However, the references do not teach prioritizing the plurality of SMSC servers (i.e. providers), wherein the plurality of providers is prioritized from a high priority to a low priority. Nonetheless, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages to these modifications, as evidenced by Gehr.

In analogous art, Gehr teaches prioritizing a set of communication servers based on a priority level in a hierarchical list for routing client request to alternate prioritized servers (i.e. providers) (column 5, lines 20-31 and column 2, lines 56-

Art Unit: 2153

65). Gehr further discloses prioritizing the plurality of SMSC servers (i.e. providers), wherein the plurality of providers is prioritized from a high priority to a low priority, (column 7, lines 32-39 and Figure 5B). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the SMS message routing methodology in order for certain SMS services that are thought to have higher volume of use to have a higher priority in the logical routing process.

In reference to claim 2, Meuronen and Salin show the SMS routing comprising: formatting the message to the requirements of the application (Meuronen i.e. define/give format for message and route corresponding to format; column 7, lines 25-40; Figure 6-items 25-50); and delivering the formatted message to the application (i.e. short message submit command/deliver send to destination address; column 7, lines 40-47; Figure 6-items 40&70); and waiting for the application to request the message (Salin; i.e. short message not transmitted until MS first sends connection establishment and location indication message; column 8, lines 26-44).

In reference to claim 3, Gehr shows the SMS method comprising: providing the message to a provider based on a priority level; and determining if the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Gehr column 2, lines 56-65; column 5, lines 18-31; and Figure 5B).

Art Unit: 2153

In reference to claim 4, Gehr shows the SMS message routing method wherein the SMSCs (i.e. providers) have a unique priority level, (Gehr column 2, lines 56-55; column 5, lines 20-31; and Figure 2).

In reference to claim 5, Meuronen and Gehr show the SMS routing method comprising: receiving a response from the prioritized SMSC server (i.e. provider) indicating if the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 12-14; column 7, lines 34-42; and Gehr column 2, lines 56-65); and associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17, and column 7, lines 42-44).

In reference to claim 6, Meuronen shows the SMS routing method wherein: associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message further comprises storing the message in a location associated with the prioritized provider, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17; column 7, lines 42-44; and column 4, lines 31-35).

Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meuronen et al. (US Patent 6,292,669) and further in view of Salin (US Patent 5,628,051), Lothia et al. (US Patent 6,560,456) and Gehr

Art Unit: 2153

et. al (US Patent 5,828,847), hereinafter referred to as Meuronen, Salin, Lothia, and Gehr respectively.

In reference to claim 7, Meuronen discloses a method for routing SMS messages based on the required SMS service (i.e. application) that comprises:

- Receiving a message having a message type indicated by a character sequence in the message (i.e. PID parameter; column 5, lines 5-25), (e.g. telefax message (group3); column 5; column 7, lines 34-38; Figure 3);
- Routing the message to a first provider (i.e. default) from a list of providers (i.e. database; column 5, lines 52-65), (column 7, lines 7-20; Figure 5);
- Associating the message with the first provider when the first provider recognizes the character sequence, (columns 5-6; column 7, lines 38-44); and
- Routing the message to a second provider when the first provider does not recognize the character sequence, (i.e. message is routed to a short message service center and routed further to the short message service center associated with desired service; column 7, lines 7-20; Figure 5).

However, Meuronen fails to disclose informing an application associated with the provider that the message is waiting without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting. Nonetheless, this modification

Art Unit: 2153

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Salin.

In an analogous art, Salin discloses a method that involves a server informing an application (i.e. mobile station of SMS subscriber; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-MS) associated with the provider (i.e. subscriber of respective short message centers; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-BSC) that messages are waiting (i.e. messages waiting to be transmitted to the subscriber/MWD list; column 10, lines 35-44) without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting (i.e. home location register HLR sends an alert to all short message service centers associated with subscribers that have messages in the MWD list; column 9, lines 45-58). Although Meuronen and Salin disclose substantial features of the claimed invention, the references fail to disclose a computer-readable medium having the computer-executable instructions for the aforementioned SMS routing method. Nonetheless, SMS routing software was well known in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Lothia. Therefore, this modification to the SMS routing system would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Lothia explicitly discloses, "existing Mobile Switching Center (MSC) software" that is employed by SMS networks to route email and other text messages to subscribers (column 1, lines 1-43 and column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 3). One of ordinary skill in the art would have been so motivated to incorporate a software product for SMS routing in order to provide a technique for the unification of different SMSCs and associated message formats that may be

Art Unit: 2153

used in different telecommunication system. However, the references do not teach prioritized SMSC servers (i.e. providers); and the provider with the highest priority receives the message first; and routing the message to the provider with second highest priority when the first highest priority rejects the message.

Nonetheless, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages to these modifications, as evidenced by Gehr.

In analogous art, Gehr teaches prioritizing a set of communication servers based on a priority level in a hierarchical list for routing client request to alternate prioritized servers (i.e. providers) (column 5, lines 20-31 and column 2, lines 56-65). Gehr further discloses that the message routing process is self-directed to request servers according to the hierarchy of successive alternate servers until the request is processed to completion and the provider with the highest priority receives the message first; and routing the message to the provider with second highest priority when the first highest priority rejects the message (column 7, lines 32-39 and Figure 5B). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the SMS message routing software in order for certain SMS services that are thought to have higher volume of use to have a higher priority in the logical routing process.

In reference to claim 8, Meuronen and Salin show the SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions comprising: formatting the message to the requirements of the application (Meuronen; i.e. define/give

Art Unit: 2153

format for message and route corresponding to format; column 7, lines 25-40; Figure 6-items 25-50); and delivering the formatted message to the application (i.e. short message submit command/deliver send to destination address; column 7, lines 40-47; Figure 6-items 40&70); and waiting for the application to request the message (Salin; i.e. short message not transmitted until MS first sends connection establishment and location indication message; column 8, lines 26-44).

In reference to claim 9, Meuronen shows a SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions wherein: formatting the message for the application further comprises: providing access to the message to the provider associated with the requesting service (i.e. application), (Meuronen column 5, lines 29-38 and column 7, lines 41-45); and the provider associated with the requesting application formatting the message to the requirements of the application, (Meuronen column 7, lines 25-40; Figure 6-items 25-50).

In reference to claim 10, Gehr shows a SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions comprising: prioritizing the list of providers based on a priority level; and providing access to the message to each of the prioritized providers in order of the priority until the message has been associated, (Gehr column 2, lines 56-65; column 5, lines 18-31; and Figure 5B).

Art Unit: 2153

In reference to claim 11, Gehr shows a SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions wherein: the SMSCs (i.e. providers) have a unique priority level, (Gehr column 2, lines 56-55;column 5, lines 20-31; and Figure 2).

In reference to claim 12, Meuronen and Gehr show a SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions comprising: receiving a response from the prioritized SMSC server (i.e. provider) indicating if the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 12-14; column 7, lines 34-42; and Gehr column 2, lines 56-65); and associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17, and column 7, lines 42-44).

In reference to claim 13, Meuronen shows a SMS routing software product with computer-executable instructions wherein: associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message further comprises storing the message in a location associated with the prioritized provider, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17; column 7, lines 42-44; and column 4, lines 31-35).

Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meuronen et al. (US Patent 6,292,669) in view of Salin

(US Patent 5,628,051), Kamm et al. (US Patent 5,457,680), and Gehr (US Patent 5,828,847), hereinafter referred to as Meuronen, Salin, Kamm and Gehr respectively.

In reference to claim 14, Meuronen discloses a system for routing SMS messages to SMS service (i.e. applications). Meuronen specifically discloses SMSC and short message gateway message service center (SMS-GMSC) servers as routing devices within the SMS routing system (column 7, lines 35-44; Figure 3; and Figure 5). In addition, Meuronen further discloses that the SMS routing device performs actions that include:

- Receiving a message having a provider indicator (i.e. i.e. PID parameter; column 5, lines 5-25), (column 5, line 65 to column 6, line 2);
- Routing the message until at least one of the providers recognizes the message (i.e. message is routed to a short message service center and routed further to the short message service center associated with desired service; column 7, lines 7-20; Figure 5);
- Associating the message with at least one provider when at least the one provider recognizes the provider indicator, (column 6, line 2-7; 7, lines 7-20; and Figure 4); and
- Delivering the message to an application associated with the at least one provider when the at least one provider recognizes the message, (column 6, line 47-54 and column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 44).

However, Meuronen fails to disclose informing an application associated with the provider that the message is waiting without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting. Nonetheless, this modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, as evidenced by Salin.

In an analogous art, Salin discloses a method that involves a server informing an application (i.e. mobile station of SMS subscriber; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-MS) associated with the provider (i.e. subscriber of respective short message centers; column 7, lines 55-67; Figure 1-BSC) that messages are waiting (i.e. messages waiting to be transmitted to the subscriber/MWD list; column 10, lines 35-44) without the application sending a query to receive an indication that the message is waiting (i.e. home location register HLR sends an alert to all short message service centers associated with subscribers that have messages in the MWD list; column 9, lines 45-58). However, Meuronen and Salin fail to show explicitly a system for routing SMS messages comprising: a processor and a computer-readable medium; an operating system stored in the computer readable medium and executing on the processor; and a communication connection device operating under the control of the operating environment. Nonetheless, routing systems with these aforementioned limitations were well known in the art at the time of the invention, as further evidenced by Kamm. Thus, these would have been obvious modifications for the SMS routing system disclosed by Meuronen to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Art Unit: 2153

In an analogous art, Kamm discloses gateway servers, which are employed in a mobile communication routing system, that comprise: a processor and a computer-readable medium, (column 5, lines 55-56 and Figure 1A); an operating system stored in the computer readable medium and executing on the processor, (column 5, lines 58-66 and Figure 1A); and a communication connection device operating under the control of the operating environment, (column 5, lines 37-43 and Figure 1A). One of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages to implementing the aforementioned limitations into the short message gateway MSCs servers as disclosed in the SMS routing system, so as ensure that data packets sent to and received from a subscriber are reliably communicated (Kamm column 3, lines 5-11). However, the references do not teach: the message is routed according to a priority level of the server (i.e. providers); wherein the provider having the having the highest level of priority receives the message first, and wherein the message is routed to a provider having a second highest level of priority when the provider having the first highest level of priority does not recognize the provider indicator. Nonetheless, one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the advantages to these modifications, as evidenced by Gehr.

Gehr teaches prioritizing a set of communication servers based on a priority level in a hierarchical list for routing client request to alternate servers (column 5, lines 20-31 and column 2, lines 56-65). Gehr further discloses that the message routing process is self-directed to request servers according to the hierarchy of successive alternate servers until the request is processed to

Art Unit: 2153

completion; wherein the provider having the having the highest level of priority receives the message first, and wherein the message is routed to a provider having a second highest level of priority when the provider having the first highest level of priority does not recognize the message (column 7, lines 32-39 and Figure 5B). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to incorporate the aforementioned limitations into the SMS message routing software in order for certain SMS services that are though to have higher volume of use to have a higher priority in the logical routing process.

In reference to claim 15, Meuronen and Salin show a SMSC and SMS-GMSC server formatting the message to the requirements of the application (Meuronen i.e. define/give format for message and route corresponding to format; column 7, lines 25-40; Figure 6-items 25-50); and waiting for the application to request the message (Salin; i.e. short message not transmitted until MS first sends connection establishment and location indication message; column 8, lines 26-44).

In reference to claim 16, Gehr shows show a SMSC and SMS-GMSC server providing messages to a provider based on a priority level; and determining if the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (column 2, lines 56-65; column 5, lines 18-31; Figure 1; and Figure 2).

Art Unit: 2153

In reference to claim 17, Meuronen and Gehr show a SMSC and SMS-GMSC server (i.e. routing device) of the SMS routing system comprising: receiving a response from the prioritized SMSC server (i.e. provider) indicating if the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 12-14; column 7, lines 34-42; and Gehr column 2, lines 56-65); and associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17, and column 7, lines 42-44).

In reference to claim 18, Meuronen shows a SMSC and SMS-GMSC server (i.e. routing device) of the SMS routing system wherein: associating the message with the prioritized provider if the received response indicates that the prioritized provider is associated with the message further comprises storing the message in a location associated with the prioritized provider, (Meuronen column 7, lines 14-17; column 7, lines 42-44; column 4, lines 31-35; and Figure 5).

In reference to claim 19, Meuronen shows a SMSC and SMS-GMSC server (i.e. routing device) of the SMS routing system wherein: formatting the message for the application further comprises providing access to the message to the provider associated with the requesting service (i.e. application), (Meuronen column 5, lines 29-38 and column 7, lines 41-45); and the provider associated with the requesting application formatting the message to the requirements of the application, (Meuronen column 6, lines 34-43; Figure 5;).

Art Unit: 2153

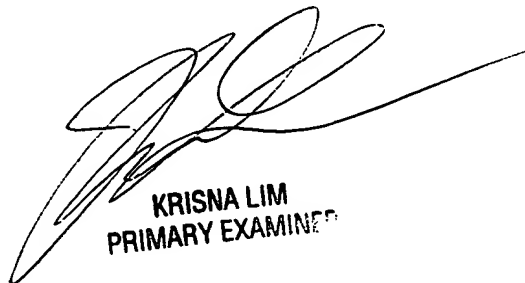
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShanya R Nash whose telephone number is (571) 272-3957. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571) 272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShanya Nash
Art Unit, 2153
April 25, 2006



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER